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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,961	07/15/2003	Shafqat Ahmed	42P13230D	7797

8791 7590 04/23/2007
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EXAMINER

BOOTH, RICHARD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2812

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,961

Applicant(s)

AHMED ET AL.

Examiner

Richard A. Booth

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 61-73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 66 and 67 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 61-65 and 68-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 61-62 and 70-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Verhaar, U.S. Patent 5,015,598.

Verhaar shows the invention as claimed including a method comprising: forming insulating spacers 20a adjacent to sidewalls of a gate; forming extension regions 23 after forming the insulating spacers by ion implantation using the insulating spacers as a mask; removing the insulating spacers by etching (see figs. 5-6); and after removing the insulating spacers by etching, forming a source and a drain (23a or 23b) by ion implantation, wherein the extension regions are shallower than the source and drain, and wherein the source and the drain are more heavily doped than the extension regions (see figs. 1-8 and col. 4-line 30 to col. 6-line 54).

Regarding claims 62 and 71, note that removing the insulating spacers comprises performing a wet etch.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 68-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verhaar, U.S. Patent 5,015,598.

Verhaar is applied as above but does not expressly disclose the spacers having a thickness of 10-200 or 20-100 angstroms. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine through routine experimentation the optimum spacer width based upon a variety of factors including the desired offset from the gate electrode and such limitation would not lend patentability to the instant application absent a showing of unexpected results. Furthermore, overlapping ranges establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verhaar, U.S. Patent 5,015,598 in view of Hsu et al., U.S. Patent 4,927,777.

Verhaar is applied as above but does not expressly disclose wherein said forming the insulating spacers comprises growing an insulating layer over the gate by oxidation and removing a portion of the insulating layer that is not on the sidewalls.

Hsu et al. discloses growing an insulating layer 42 over the gate by oxidation and removing a portion of the insulating layer that is not on the sidewalls (see figs. 5-7 and col. 4-line 43 to col. 5-line 9). In view of this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the process of Verhaar so as to form the spacers as shown by Hsu et al. because in such a way the operating characteristics of the transistor will be improved due to the lower trap density.

Claims 64 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verhaar, U.S. Patent 5,015,598 in view of Wolf et al., "Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era Volume 1: Process Technology.

Verhaar is applied as above but does not expressly disclose the spacers being formed by LPCVD at a temperature higher than seven hundred fifty Celsius.

Wolf et al. discloses forming silicon dioxide using LPCVD in a temperature range overlapping the claimed range (see last two paragraphs on page 184). In view of this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the process of Verhaar so as to include the deposition process of Wolf et al. because such films show excellent conformability.

Claims 65 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verhaar, U.S. Patent 5,015,598 in view of Shields et al., U.S. Patent 6,350,696.

Verhaar is applied as above but does not expressly disclose removing a portion of the insulating layer using a combination of a dry and wet etch.

Shields discloses forming a spacer by a combination of a dry etch and then a wet etch (see figs. 4-7 and col. 3-lines 10-65). In view of this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the process of Verhaar so as to form the spacers using a dry and wet etch combination as disclosed by Shields et al. because such a process will prevent damage of the silicon and gate insulating layer from the plasma etching process.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 61-65 and 68-73 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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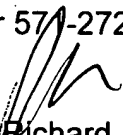
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard A. Booth whose telephone number is (571) 272-1668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Lebentritt can be reached on (571) 272-1873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Richard A. Booth
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2812

April 6, 2007